already taken regarding the price of rice and paddy are also being enforced and these prices bear a close relation to the prices prevailing in the adjoining State of Cochin. Owing to recent developments in the war situation shipments of rice from Rangoon to Travancore parts have become impossible and suitable measures have therefore been taken to secure supplies from elsewhere. Every facility is being given by Government to large scale importers of rice from abroad and the railway authorities have been moved to provide sufficient number of waggons for the transport of rice to Travancore. Government have also taken steps to maintain supplies to meet emergencies.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: In view of the answer from Government that it has become impossible to import rice from foreign places, will the Government be able to enlighten what they mean when they say that every facility is being given by Government to large scale importers of rice from abroad? May I ask, is it a mere rhetorical flourish?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: I may tell the honourable member that it was far from the intention of Government to indulge in rhetorical flourish. What is stated in the answer is bare fact. Certain arrangements were entered into for the shipment of rice from Rangoon. This was done by large-scale importers of rice. Owing to unforeseen events it became impossible for them to secure shipment from Rangoon or Akyab. as the case may be. Fortunately, however, a certain quantity of the rice purchased has reached Calcutta and these large scale importers have asked for the aid of Government to see that waggons and other facilities are provided in order to transport that material from Calcutta to Travancore. Government have moved the railway authorities through the Government of India. Whatever paddy or rice that the importers have succeeded in bringing to Calcutta will be attempted to be brought over here. That is the position.

Tube well at Mahadevicaud.

34. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan** (*Karunagapalli, Karthikapalli and Ambalapuzha cum Shertalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have formally acquired the site for the sinking of a tube well in Mahadevicaud (Karthikapalli taluk)?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Yes.

Grants to Libraries and Reading Rooms.

35. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have made any general reduction in the grants given to Libraries and Reading Rooms; and

(*b*) if so, on what basis it has been made?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. Gopala Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*) :

(*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Village Unions in the State.

36. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan** : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number and names of Village Unions sanctioned last year ; and

(*b*) how many of them have begun to function.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : (*a*) 13. They are ;

1. Kadiapattanam
2. Arudesom
3. Kadakkavoor
4. Karunagapalli
5. Kozhimukku
6. Cheppad—Valiakuzhi
7. Vadakkekara
8. Mylapra
9. Madapally
10. Thiruvarpu
11. Kuthattukulam
12. Muvattupuzha, and
13. Kothakulangara

(*b*) All except Cheppad—Valiakuzhi, Vadakkekara and Mylapra have begun to function.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : With reference to answer to part (*b*), may I know why the Village Union in those places has not begun to function ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : That information has been called for from the Division Peishkar. Obviously, certain bye-laws might not have been framed by those Unions. Or, certain items of equipment and other things necessary for the starting of those institutions might not have been ready yet. Anyway, details have been called for.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : May I ask, have not seven months elapsed since the starting of the Village Union in those places ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : Yes, but the delay will be minimised.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (*Nominated*): May I know whether other Unions are working as per bye-laws framed by them?

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